



U.S. House of Representatives

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Appropriation Conference Report Scorecard: Congress Spends More than Clinton Four for Four...And Counting

Dear Colleague:

The Congress has appropriated *more* than the President requested in the four appropriations conference reports it has approved so far. Although many in Congress try to claim that the President is forcing appropriations to be higher than Congress intended, the evidence is plain that Congress plans to outspend the President on appropriated programs.

The table below compares the President's request to what Congress actually appropriated for the first four appropriations bills jointly agreed upon by the House and Senate. The President has already signed the Military Construction and Defense Appropriations bills into law, and both chambers of Congress have adopted the Energy and Water and Interior Appropriations conference reports.

Comparing the President's Request with Appropriations Conference Reports (Dollars in billions)

Bill	President's Request		Appropriation		App'n Above Request	
	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays
Defense	284.3	273.5	287.6	277.8	3.3	4.3
Mil Con	8.0	8.6	8.8	8.6	0.8	0.0
Energy & Water	22.7	22.4	23.6	23.0	0.9	0.7
Interior	16.4	16.0	18.9	17.3	2.5	1.3
Total	331.5	320.5	338.9	326.7	7.4	6.2

Numbers may not add due to rounding.

As the table indicates, Congress has already appropriated \$7.4 billion more in budget authority and \$6.2 billion more in outlays than the President requested for these four bills. All signs indicate that this trend is not likely to be reversed for the nine remaining bills. Indeed, the House-passed level for the Transportation appropriations bill is already \$435 million more in budget authority and \$731 million more in outlays than the President requested, and the conference report is expected to be higher still.

Respectfully,

John M. Spratt, Jr.
Ranking Democratic Member